

FORT IN FRANCE FALLS

FRENCH FORT IS TAKEN BY STORM BY THE GERMANS

One of the Fortifications of Verdun is in the Hands of the Germans Now.

IS ONE OF A CLUSTER

Capture is the Most Important Achievement Since Inauguration of German Drive.

BERLIN, Feb. 26.—It is officially announced that Fort Douaumont, one of the fortifications of Verdun, was taken by storm yesterday afternoon and is now firmly held by the Germans.

The official statement is as follows: "The armored fort of Douaumont, the northeastern corner pillar of the of the permanent main line fortifications of the stronghold of Verdun, was stormed yesterday afternoon by the Twenty-fourth regiment of Brandenburg infantry and is now firmly in German hands."

Fort Douaumont lies four miles northeast of Verdun. It is one of nearly a score of forts circling Verdun and is situated just to the north of the railroad running east from the city of Metz.

Douaumont is one of a cluster of seven forts protecting Verdun from the east. Forts De Canville, De Tannay, and St. Michael directly between the position conquered by the Germans and the city of Verdun.

The conquest of this fort was made by the right wing of the great attacking army, which had scored the greatest advance in the assault on the French position. Douaumont is somewhat to the east of what has hitherto been the principle line of progress being situated four miles east of the Meuse river. The main force of the German attack as indicated by the previous official communication, was being exerted southward along the Meuse.

The capture of Douaumont is the most important achievement since the inauguration of the German drive at Verdun, an onslaught, which for fury and for ferocity in the war. The French war office has expressed confidence that notwithstanding the admitted great strength of the German drive, Verdun and its protecting fortresses would be able to hold out. These positions form what has been regarded as one of the greatest strongholds of Europe. It is the strongest fortress of France and is of particular importance from the fact that it offers direct communication with Paris, which is 150 miles to the west. Verdun marks the northern point of the great French defenses against direct attacks from Germany, the most southerly being Belfort, as between these two points lies the stretch of frontier on which Germany touches France.

The French forces in the Champagne have made an attack on the German positions south of St. Marie-a-Py. The war office statement today says the French penetrated the first German trenches over a distance of about 250 yards.

Another official statement says that considerable advances have been made east of the Meuse in the region north of Verdun in the presence of Emperor William.

Resistance of the French broke down on the Woerthe plains along the entire front to Marbache, south of the high road from Paris to Metz.

"We are pursuing the retreating enemy," the statement says.

The war office also announced the capture of the hills southwest of the village of Louvemont, and the fortified positions to the east thereof.

GERMANS CONTINUE VIOLENT ATTACK

PARIS, Feb. 26.—The Germans are continuing their violent attacks north of Verdun without regard to their sacrifices, the war office announced today.

The German attacks in the region of Beaumont east of the Meuse have failed, the war office says, notwithstanding repeated attacks and great slaughter.

The text of the statement follows: "The fighting is still being carried on bitterly north of Verdun, where the enemy continues its efforts on the front east of the Meuse. After the last engagement our troops retained their positions in spite of the repeated assaults of the enemy, which no longer counts its sacrifices."

"In the region of Beaumont the battle, which is still raging, has taken on a most sanguinary character."

"On the front of the Woerthe the advance posts, which we held in lines of observation from Ornes to Hennefont since the battles of last year, have been attacked by infantry forces from both sides of the Meuse. Our artillery on both right and left banks of the river repelled without ceasing the bombardment of the enemy."

"Serious but not disquieting" is the common phrase which is used in official and parliamentary circles regarding the progress of the Germans in their attacks against Verdun. Unaffected by the snow storm, the Germans hammered away all day Friday at the French lines, which although

unbroken at the end of the six-day battle, were, however, again rectified as a measure of prudence, the left wing being drawn in to Champneuville, and the right, being brought back a little south of Ornes. The new front, barely three miles in length, extends along the heights offering every advantage for defense and forming one of the most formidable obstacles before the entrenched camp of Verdun. It is in this narrow space that the crown prince is hurling his masses. Military observers here express the belief that the counter offensive will be launched from this line at a decisive moment and that it will drive back across the ground already covered with the dead bodies of their comrades, the battalions which are being hurled forward in the most bloody assaults which this war has yet seen.

LONDON VERY ANXIOUS FOR NEWS FROM PORT

LONDON, Feb. 26.—The only word concerning the German claim to taking the armored fortress of Douaumont, outside of Verdun, comes through German sources. Further information is awaited anxiously owing to the recognized strategic importance of this fort, which is the base of solid field works on a line of hills 1,000 feet high, about six miles northeast of Verdun.

The last detailed information showed the French holding lines two and a half miles beyond Douaumont with this powerful fortress and its field works giving steady support.

The Pall Mall Gazette says the French are sustaining an assault on the German position in the hottest engagements of the entire war.

The Westminster Gazette expresses confidence that the main fortress is impregnable. It predicts that the principal results of the German attack will be tremendous losses, which will cripple the effectiveness of the Germans in subsequent operations.

AEROPLANE

Soaring Above Big Grain Elevators at Superior, Wisc., Causes Great Alarm.

SUPERIOR, Wis., Feb. 26.—Watchmen guarding big grain elevators containing millions of bushels of wheat for the Allies were alarmed early today when an aeroplane soaring 3,000 feet in the air circled above the docks for nearly half an hour.

The machine was first noticed just before dawn. When it became light it disappeared in the direction of the new plant of the Minnesota Steel Company. An aeroplane was recently sighted over a small station near the Du Pont powder plant at Washburn.

E. G. Rider, of Sutton, is here looking after business affairs.

HEARS TESTIMONY ON NAVY'S NEEDS

Congressman Padgett leaving naval affairs committee meeting.

Congressman Samuel P. Padgett of Tennessee is chairman of the house naval affairs committee which for several weeks has been taking testimony on the condition of the naval forces of the United States.

During that time Mr. Padgett and the other members have heard some disagreeable facts regarding the deficiencies of the navy.

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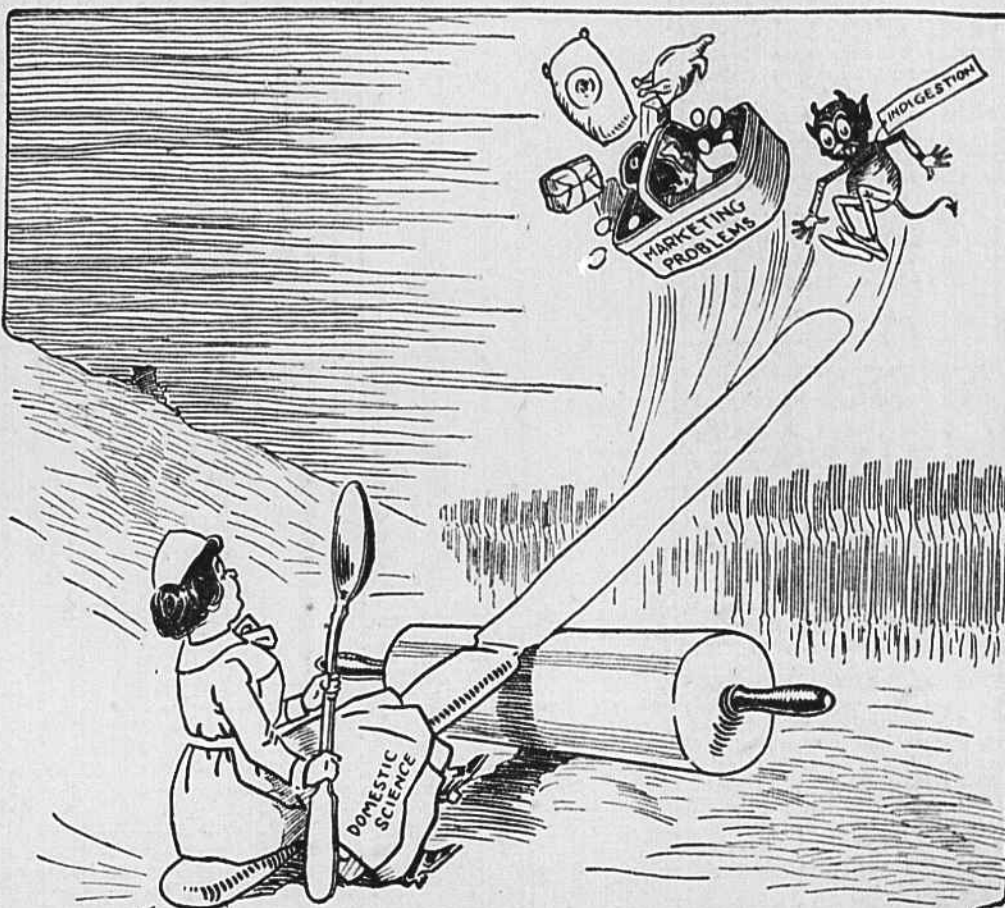
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Miss Hanko Arrives Tomorrow

Will Give Opening Better Foods and Better Homes Lesson Monday in the Masonic Auditorium. Tells What Food Is For. Will Bake and Five Away Betty Lane Cakes.



PROGRAM FOR MONDAY.

Subject: "Food and Its Functions." Menu: Macaroni American Cheese Sauce, Alexander Salad, Mayonnaise and Boiled Dressing, Betty Lane Cake, Baked Icing.

Miss Emma Hanko, food expert who is to have charge of the Telegram Better Foods and Better Homes school in the Masonic auditorium next week is expected to arrive in the city tomorrow to make final preparations for the opening of the school on Monday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock.

The merchants of this city who are interested in this Better Foods and Better Homes campaign, believe that it will be good for business and have loaned a very complete kitchen equipment for Miss Hanko's use in the Masonic auditorium. There is nothing, however, that would not be found in the average housekeeper's kitchen. Miss

Hanko does not use anything out of the ordinary in the way of equipment in her work as a cookery teacher. She says that the aim of her lecture and cookery course is to help the average housewife who must plan meals for her family on an average income and prepare them in an average kitchen. While she believes that an adequate equipment is advisable and necessary, she does not feel that the most modern or most expensive or up-to-date furniture or utensils are as profitable to the housewife as intelligent thought and careful planning in her work.

The whole end and aim of Miss Hanko's Better Foods and Better Homes course is to help the actual housewife, the woman engaged from day to day in washing, ironing, cleaning and cooking for her family. Whether a woman is a good cook or a poor one, she will be interested in Miss Hanko's Better Foods and Better Homes course in the Masonic auditorium.

While Miss Hanko has studied the subject of food and its use and its proper preparation most thoroughly and scientifically, she does not present this knowledge in scientific terms or in a manner uninteresting or difficult to be understood by the most inexperienced and untrained young woman in her class. She uses the ordinary everyday language that women employ in discussing their household problems with their neighbors and in her talk Monday on "Food and Its Functions," she is simply going to call the attention of the women in her class to the importance of selecting such foods as will build up strong bodies, repair waste, brighten the eye, enlighten the mind and inspire to good, clean living.

The talk each afternoon will be short, to the point and filled with helpful information. It will be followed by a cookery lesson in which Miss Hanko will tell how to cook ordinary everyday foods and how to serve them attractively. Her cookery lesson on Monday includes a salad lesson and a more detailed instruction in regard to making good cake and good icing. The cake for Monday is a white cake and for it Miss Hanko will prepare and give a lesson in boiled icing. All of these foods will be served and a number of Betty Lane cakes will be given away as souvenirs of the school.

Housewives of this city should remember that these lectures and cookery lessons are all free and that every woman in the city is invited to attend and to co-operate in making this Better Foods and Better Homes week the finest thing of this kind ever attempted in Clarksburg.

GANG OF YOUTHFUL THIEVES BROKEN UP BY THE POLICE

Four Arrested and All Confess to Many Robberies in This City.

With the arrest last Friday afternoon of four youths—the oldest just 17 years old—police believe they have cleared up several robberies that have taken place in this city in the last few months. The youths confessed to two robberies on a large scale and a number of smaller ones. Police are of the opinion that even yet the youths have not told of all of their activities.

The boys under arrest are Isaac Wells, colored, John Douglas, colored, and George Hollins and George Holborn. Hollins lives on Water street and the others on Monticello avenue.

The two big robberies committed by the youths were the theft of about 500 pounds of brass from the Simmons Plumbing Company's store on West Pike street about a month ago, and the stealing of 100 pounds of copper wire from the warehouse of the R. T. Lowndes electric light plant on Monticello avenue Thursday night of this week.

Isaac Wells, the oldest of the boys, has served a term in the state reform school for boys. The other youths said that he was their leader in all the robberies. Every time a charge of this kind was made, Wells would laugh aloud.

"Gwan, boys, whatcha tryin' to do ter me?" he said once. "I don't mind takin' my share of the blame, Mister Brooks," he told the chief, "but Lawdy, I can't take it all."

Police learned that Wells was given his release from the reform school on parole, and authorities of the institution were informed that the youth was a prisoner here. It was said that a guard from the reform school would arrive here late this afternoon to take charge of the boy.

Young Hollins said that dime novels had stolen him on the road of crime. "Nine shots rang out and forty horsemen fell," he said, laughing, quoting an excerpt from one of these books. Hollins is 15 years old. He came into Chief Brooks's office Saturday morning smiling. "That Holborn kid

crowded me out of the bunk last night," he complained. "Tain't so," retorted the accused. "You couldn't have slept anyway with them other two boys a singing all night."

Hollins laughed. "That's right, Mister Brooks," he said. "All them kids done all night was to sing."

"You won't be laughing so loud when you get to eating those soup beans up in the big jail," chimed in Wells.

The most pathetic case of the four is that of young Holborn, the youngest of the quartet, he being only 14 years old. He has poor eyes, which, he says, pain him very badly at night. It is said that he was born blind. According to his story, which was corroborated by the others, he did not take an active part in any of the robberies but acted merely as a guard, while the others "pulled the job."

Holborn said that he never got any money out of any of the robberies. "Who was supposed to pay you?" asked Chief Brooks.

"Wells," replied Holborn. "Why didn't you give him his share of the proceeds of the robbery?" the chief asked Wells.

"Well, he got plenty of experience, didn't he?" replied Wells. "He didn't have no money coming to him for what he done."

John Douglas confessed that in addition to the robberies in which he aided the other boys, he had stolen a number of feed sacks from a livery barn where he was employed. "I never took but about fifty," he said.

"For the love of Mike," said Wells, "you took more than that at one time."

Police said that the boys had confessed to breaking into the new plant of the Clarksburg Gas and Electric Company on West Pike street. They said they got little or no loot there. Chief Brooks and City Detective White, who worked up the case against the youths, are of the opinion that five or six other petty robberies in the last few months were committed by them. The chief and Detective White have been working on the cases for several weeks, but it was not until Friday that they believed that they

had welded the last link into the chain of evidence against the boys. Mr. White then arrested the boys. They confessed immediately after the arrest, the police say.

Police have located all the property stolen by the boys, and it was said that it will be returned to the persons from whom it was stolen. The boys had sold most of the loot.

ATTEMPTED ASSAULT

Charged against Fifteen-Year-Old Negro Youth, Who is in the City Jail.

Charged with attempt to commit criminal assault on Mary Delson, seven-year-old daughter of Mrs. Lewis Delson, of Water street, last October, John Douglas, a negro youth about 15 years of age, is a prisoner in the city jail awaiting a hearing on the charge before Magistrate R. Edward Kidd. The hearing will probably be held in a day or two.

The warrant charges that the attempt was made last October. It was said that the negro youth has been out of the city since the date of the alleged assault.

Douglas was arrested by City Detective L. L. White late Friday afternoon along with three other youths on a charge of theft. Upon learning that Douglas was a prisoner in the city jail, Mrs. Delson went to Magistrate Kidd's court and swore out the warrant against him.

TAKEN TO WHEELING.

The body of Frank P. Duffy, who died Thursday night in his apartment on Fourth street, was taken Saturday morning to Wheeling, where funeral services and interment will take place Monday morning. The funeral services will be conducted from the Catholic cathedral at 9 o'clock.

Dr. and Mrs. C. W. Halterman are here from Weston for an over Sunday visit with relatives.

ARMAMENT MAY BE DISCUSSED BY "UNCLE SAM" NEXT

LARGE CROWD

Gathered at Buckhannon to Witness Wesleyan - West Virginia Game Tonight.

Buckhannon is agog with excitement over the big game between West Virginia and Wesleyan here tonight. The sale of tickets has exceeded all expectations and with the special train load of people coming from Weston the entire capacity of Wesleyan's gymnasium will be taken. The Wesleyan lineup will consist of Shumaker and Jacobs, forwards; Morrison at center; and Beck and Daniels at guards. According to information received here West Virginia will line up with Rogers and Tuckwiler at forward; Latimer at center, and Hite and Morrison at guards. The special train from Weston will arrive at 7:45, too late for the game between the Wesleyan and West Virginia Reserves, which will be staged as a preliminary, though it may be decided at the last minute to hold the starting of this game till the arrival of the train.

MURDOCK

Will Lecture at the State Normal School at Fairmont Next Tuesday Night.

FAIRMONT, Feb. 26.—After having been twice postponed, a telegram received at the Normal school last night brings intelligence that Victor Murdock, congressman, literary man and lecturer, will be at the Grand opera house as a number of the normal school lecture course on Tuesday evening of next week.

Mr. Murdock's number was one of the most looked forward to of any of the numbers of the course, and when it was announced that there was a possibility of him not being able to be here on account of his European trip, a general regret was expressed.

Mr. Murdock is a big man in American affairs and his insurgent propensities while in the house of representatives from Kansas won him the title of "The Red Headed Insurgent." His thoughts on current problems challenge attention. His expression of them is vigorous. No mistake will be made in hearing him.

DR. TAYLOR RETURNS.

The Rev. W. C. Taylor has returned from Terra Alta, where he held revival meetings three weeks. The same were quite successful. He will occupy his pulpit in the First Baptist church tomorrow morning and evening.

INSPECTS WARSHIPS.

COPENHAGEN, Feb. 26.—The Wilhelmshaven station states that Emperor William arrived in Wilhelmshaven on Wednesday morning and inspected the warships there. He conferred with the commanders of the North sea fleet, the Zeitung says, and departed the same evening.

RUSSIANS TAKE TOWN.

LONDON, Feb. 26.—A Reuter despatch from Petrograd says the Russians have taken by storm Kerman-shah, the important Persian city in the neighborhood of which serious fighting has recently taken place.

MIKE KING COMES OUT FOR STATE SECRETARY

Popular Randolph County Man Finally Throws His Hat into the Ring.

ELKINS, Feb. 26.—Mike H. King, prominent attorney and referee in bankruptcy, today formally announced his candidacy for the Republican nomination for secretary of state. This announcement has been generally expected for several weeks, as there have been demands coming from every section of the state that "Colonel" King, as he is called in his home county, get into the race. Mr. King has just returned from a tour of the state in which he visited all the principal cities and conferred with prominent Republicans. Everywhere he was urged to enter the race and received the heartiest assurance of support both at the primary and the general elections.

Mike King is well known throughout West Virginia, having been a candidate for the same office against Secretary of State Stuart F. Reed in 1912. When defeated by Reed for the nomination, King did not become an "insurgent," but entered heartily into the campaign and helped elect his successful opponent and the entire Republican ticket.

Mr. King stated that he had no new platform to put before the people, but that he was a Republican, thoroughly believed in Republican principles and if nominated would make his campaign for election upon the platform of the Republican party.

A vigorous campaign will be made by King, who is an eloquent speaker and he will visit every county in the state and put his claim before the people.

Count officers headed by J. H. Tenney, deputy state commissioner of prohibition, visited the residence of H. C. Modispaugh at 179 1/2 First street late Friday and seized 135 pints of whiskey which they said was concealed in a big tin box beneath the floor. The whiskey was taken to the county jail.

Amos F. Rohrbough, of Belington, is a visitor here.

M. R. Steinbeck, of Weston, is transacting business here.

Confidential Advices from Berlin Forecast a Proposal for Such Discussion.

ONE REPLY IS RECEIVED

Probably the Nation Answering Secretary Lansing is Either France or Italy.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—The United States, Secretary Lansing indicated today, may discuss the question whether property may be regarded as armament on a merchant ship, if the question is raised.

Confidential advices from Berlin have forecasted a proposal for such a discussion by Germany, which contends that armament permitted under international law as defensive had become offensive with the advent of the submarine.

Until the question is raised Mr. Lansing regards it as premature to announce the position of the state department.

One of the Entente Allies, to which Secretary Lansing suggested disarming of merchant ships replied today but the nature of the reply or the name of the government which made it will not be disclosed until all the Allies have answered. The impression prevails that it was not Great Britain but was probably France or Italy.

HARDMAN DEAD

Well Known Roane County Citizen Dies in Hospital Following an Operation.

Information was received here Friday evening that Charles W. Hardman, a prominent resident of Roane county, near Spencer, had died in the Roane County hospital following an operation for appendicitis, performed a short time previous and from which he could not rally because of his weakened condition and the shock.

Mr. Hardman, who was well known in Clarksburg, was a prominent farmer of that section of the state, and was elected president of the West Virginia Agricultural Society at the meeting recently held at Morgantown.

No details concerning the funeral can be secured as the arrangements have not been completed, but it is probable the services will be held and interment made Sunday afternoon.

STEAMER SUNK.

LONDON, Feb. 26.—Lloyds announces the sinking of the British steamers Denaby of 2,987 tons, and Temmel, of 531 tons. Seven members of the crews are missing. Of five survivors who were picked up two died.

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